

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
YOICHI SATO ) : Examiner: Brendan N. McCommas  
Application No.: 10/661,553 ) : Art Unit: 2625  
Filed: September 15, 2003 ) : Confirmation No.: 9044  
For: IMAGE PICKUP APPARATUS ) : October 21, 2010

**Mail Stop RCE**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is being filed herewith. Prior to further examination on the merits, and in response to the final Office Action dated July 21, 2010, please amend the above-identified application as follows.